(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Increasing the Number of Postmen in Trans-Yamuna Area of Delhi

3345. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Yamunapar Mein daak vitran vyavastha charmarai: 35 lakh logon ke liye 250 postman" which appeared in Dainik Jagaran dated 5th March, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government to increase the number of postmen in trans-Yamuna area; and

(d) the action taken to open more post offices, telegraph offices and telephone exchanges in trans-Yamuna keeping the population in mind?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir, There are 257 Postmen and 6 EDDA catering to the delivery needs of this area.

(b) These postmen are working in 10 delivery offices and covering 111 double & 30 single beats in the area.

(c) The strength of establishment is reviewed periodically. Based on the latest such review in 1996-97, a justification of 12 additional posts of Postmen as per departmental norms was established. In order to make good this 4.8% shortage of manpower, efforts are being made to augment the strength of Postmen by redeploying Postmen staff found surplus in other areas.

(d) The Department has recently opened one more Post Office at Jafrabad in trans-Yamuna area on 29.3.97 raising their number to 62 including 1 H.O. in this area. At present there are 4 telegraph offices functioning in the area namely, Krishna Nagar, Shahdara, Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital and Kalyanpuri Telegraph Offices providing Booking and Delivery of Telegrams, STD/ISD, P.C.O., FAX and acceptance of telephone bills facilities.

The strengthing of postal, telegraph and telephone network is a continuous process based on departmental norms keeping in view demand, need and feasibility.

Waiting List of Telephone in Hyderabad

3346. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that waiting list for phones has progressively increased in the areas under Hyderabad Telecom;

(b) if so, the number of persons on waiting list in different categories in Hyderabad Telecom as on date; and

(c) the schedule for clearing this waiting list in Hyderabad Telecom Circle?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes Sir, Waiting list has increased progressively over the last four years.

(b) As on 31.3.1997, the category wise waiting list is as follows:

OYT	**NIL**
N-OYT	41211

(c) It is planned to clear the existing waiting list by March 1998, subject to availablity of resources.

Upgradation of Post Offices in Tamil Nadu

3347. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed by Government to upgrade post offices;

(b) the district-wise number of post offices in Tamil Nadu which have been upgraded during the last three years; and

(c) the number of post offices in Kanyakumari district which have been upgraded during 1995, 1996 and till date?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) The criteria fixed by the Government to upgrade post offices is given in Annex.

(b) The number of post offices which were upgraded during the last three years, district-wise is given below:

Sl. No.	Name of District	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1.	Chennai	1	1	—
2.	Kanyakumari	—	2	—
3.	Kottabomman	—	—	1
4.	VO Chidambaranad	—	3	—
5.	Pudukkottal	—	1	—
6.	Villupuram Ramasamy Padayachi	—	—	1
	TOTAL	1	7	2

(c) The number of post offices in Kanyakumari district which have been upgraded during 1995, 1996 and till date are:—

1994-95	—	Nil
1995-96	—	2
1996-97	—	Nil

Criteria for upgradation of Post Offices

Upgradation of Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and Extra Departmental Sub Post Offices into Departmental Sub Post Offices

Minimum workload requirement

The minimum daily workload of an Extra Departmental Post Office should be at least five hours to qualify its upgradation into Departmental Sub Post Office.

Permissible Annual Loss

(a) In urban areas, initially, the Post Office should be self supporting. At the time of the first annual review, it should show a 5% profit to become eligible for further retention.

(b) In normal rural areas, the annual loss should not be more than Rs. 2,400/- per annum.

(c) In tribal and hilly areas, the annual loss should not be more than Rs. 4,800/- per annum.

Minimum distance required

The minimum distance between two post offices is 1.5 Kms. in cities with a population of 20 lakh and above; and 2 Kms. in other urban areas. No delivery offices should, however, be closer than 5 Kms. from each other. Further, a delivery office should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

Upgradation of Departmental Sub Post Offices into Head Post Offices

As per Departmental norms, a Sub Post Office is upgraded into Head Post Office by bifurcating the accounts jurisdiction of an existing Head Post Office when the number of Sub Post Offices under its jurisdiction exceeds 60. There is a further stipulation that after bifurcation, the number of Sub Post

Offices to be placed under the existing Head Post Offices and the proposed Head Post Office is not less than 20 each.

A Head Post Office can also be created in a district if there are 20 Sub Post Offices in that district to be placed under the account jurisdication of the proposed Head Post Office.

In hilly and backward areas, the norms can be relaxed if there is an appreciable advantage in financing the Post Offices by upgradation of a Sub Post Office into a Head Post Office.

Improving Directory Information Service in Andhra Pradesh

3348. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Directory information service in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh is of dismal standard;

(b) whether any monitoring has been done of the level of service rendered by the telecom department in rural areas in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether Andhra Pradesh telecom propose to improve operator response services in rural areas; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken in 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) No, Sir. There are 22 SSAs in Andhra Pradesh Circle. Computerisation of Directory information service has been taken in 14 SSAs so far. For the balance SSAs also computerisation will be completed progressively. This will improve directory information service significantly in the SSAs including rural areas.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It is planned to further improve the services during 1997-98 by:—

(i) Augmenting the number of Circuits.

(ii) Replacing overhead medium by stable medium.

(iii) Computerising the Directory Information Service.

Hike in the Tariff of Telephone Calls

3349. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a new tariff has been fixed by the Department of Telephones for a call from a fixed to a mobile telephone;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) the date from the tariff is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the reasons for this hike in the tariff?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Copy of the order is enclosed as statement. *(See below).*

(c) Implemented from 15.2.97. However, TRAI recently issued directions which are under examination.

(d) The tariff for fixed to mobile calls in Telecom Circles was fixed for the first time. Since there was no tariff earlier for this service, question of hike in tariff does not arise.

Statement

Government of India
Ministry of Communications
Department of Telecommunications

20, Ashoka Road, Sanchar Bhavan,
New Delhi-110001

Dated the 29th Jan., 1997
No. 106-21/96-PHC

To

All GGMs Telecom Circles/Telephone Distts.
CGM, MTNL, New Delhi/Mumbai.